

## **FWP Fact Sheet Questions & Answers**

### **Montana Wolf Conservation and Management**

#### **The Wolf Population**

**Q. How many wolves are there in Montana?**

A. About 500 lived in Montana at the end of 2008. Montana's wolf population has grown in recent years by about 20 percent annually. The minimum Montana wolf population at the end of 2008 was estimated at 497 wolves, in 84 verified packs, and 34 breeding pairs.

**Q. What is the long-term plan for wolves in Montana?**

A. Montana's wolf conservation and management program is similar to that for its healthy black bear and mountain lion populations. The aim is to sustain Montana's wolf population, and to keep it in balance with its habitat, other wildlife species and land uses and the people who live here.

**Q. How many wolves are there in the Northern Rocky Mountains?**

A. At the end of 2008, about 1,650 wolves lived in the northern Rocky Mountain region, where wolves can travel about freely to join existing packs or form new packs.

**Q. What was the recovery goal for wolves?**

A. The minimum recovery goal for wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains was set at a minimum of 30 breeding pairs—successfully reproducing wolf packs—and a minimum of 300 individual wolves for at least three consecutive years and well distributed throughout the recovery area. The goal was achieved in 2002, and the wolf population has doubled since then.

#### **The Montana Wolf Conservation & Management Plan**

**Q. What is the Montana Wolf Conservation & Management Plan?**

A. [Montana's wolf plan](#) addresses a wide array of responsibilities related to the wolf's biological needs, human safety, livestock interactions, habitat connectivity, predator/prey relationships, funding, compensation for livestock depredations, wildlife monitoring, and public education and outreach. It focuses on the wildlife biology, laws, rules, regulations and management procedures needed to maintain a sustainable wolf population and prevent wolves from becoming endangered again.

**Q. Who developed the plan?**

A. The plan is largely based on the work of the 12-member Montana Wolf Management Advisory Council. The council's members represented a variety of interests and worked together with FWP and the public for more than three years to craft the plan.

**Q. What is the goal of the plan?**

**A.** The goal of Montana's wolf conservation and management plan is simple—to bring wolves into the Montana wildlife fold, to include and manage them among all the species that inhabit Montana. Today, we can celebrate the fact that Montana manages elk, deer, bears, mountain lions, grouse, bighorn sheep, and wolves, in balance with their habitats, other species, and in balance with the people who live here.